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## EDITORIAL

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A PROPOSED INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF PETROLOGY.—The committee appointed by the Seventh International Congress of Geologists to consider plans for the establishment of an International Journal of Petrology has chosen Professor F. Becke of Vienna, well known as the editor of *Tschermak's Mittheilungen*, President of the Committee, and has taken the first steps toward the organization of such a journal. It has been proposed that articles appearing in it shall be printed in French, German, or English at the option of the author.

While primarily intended for the publication of reviews and abstracts of all petrographical papers wherever published, it is suggested that it may include also articles which shall appear in it for the first time. The carrying out of this must depend upon the financial support the journal receives.

The journal is to be managed by a committee appointed by the International Congress of Geologists, the committee to select an editor who shall have two assistants; the editor and assistants to receive salaries for their services.

The desirability of having one source, thoroughly up to date, to which to turn for information concerning all matters published on petrology is self-evident to all attempting to keep abreast with the rapid advance of this science. One has only to observe what a great impulse to the science of mineralogy has been given by the establishment of Groth's *Zeitschrift für Krystallographie*, to be convinced of the usefulness and convenience of such a journal.

The necessity of forecasting as correctly as possible the financial support obtainable for such a journal has suggested to the American members of the committee the plan of calling attention to the enterprise and of inviting all interested in its success to communicate to either of them such suggestions or information as may aid in estimating the amount of annual

subscriptions or contributions that may be obtained from this country.

It is expected that the chief support will come from individual subscriptions and from university and public libraries, but it may be possible to obtain assistance, in the first years of the undertaking at least, from other sources.

J. P. IDDIGS,

L. V. PIRSSON,

*Members of the Committee for America.*

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DO STATE SURVEYS PAY? The question has often been asked, and in the coming legislative season probably will be asked many times. An answer is usually desired which deals with dollars and cents, but, perhaps, a partial answer may be given by noting the sort of requests for miscellaneous information which consume a not unimportant portion of the time of survey officers.

For illustration, the requests of a single day in the office of one of the smaller surveys may be noted. Two came in the morning mail. The first was from a professor in one of the smaller colleges, asking for twenty copies of a certain pamphlet to use in the class room. The second was from a consulting chemist, retained by some eastern capitalist to investigate the advisability of establishing an important manufacturing plant in the state. He wished to know the amount, quality, and average cost of certain ores which were being mined there, and the probability of larger quantities being mined. A third request was made in person, by the engineer in charge of locating an important line of railway. He wished a report upon the mineral resources of all kinds along the proposed line. A fourth request came in the afternoon mail. It was from a high-school teacher, who wished for a certain report to use in teaching. The last request was from a reporter, sent to secure an interview relative to certain reputed iron deposits that the local papers of a certain section of the state were making much of. The city editor of a big daily wished to know whether there was any iron there. If so, how much. What was its quality, and what the chances of securing its development if proper publicity were given the matter. He wanted "facts which could be relied on," and so he sent to the survey.

All these requests were attended to in detail, and the tired official wondered when he was to get time to write, revise, and print the report on the year's field work.

H. F. B.